



Demystifying Contributor Culture

IRC, Mailing Lists, and Netiquette for the 21st Century

Jill Rouleau (they / them / theirs)

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Demystifying Contributor Culture

IRC, Mailing Lists, and Netiquette for the 21st Century

We will NOT be covering:

- How to use Git, GitHub, or any other VCS
- Code review
- Writing unit or integration tests

Demystifying Contributor Culture

IRC, Mailing Lists, and Netiquette for the 21st Century

We Will Cover:

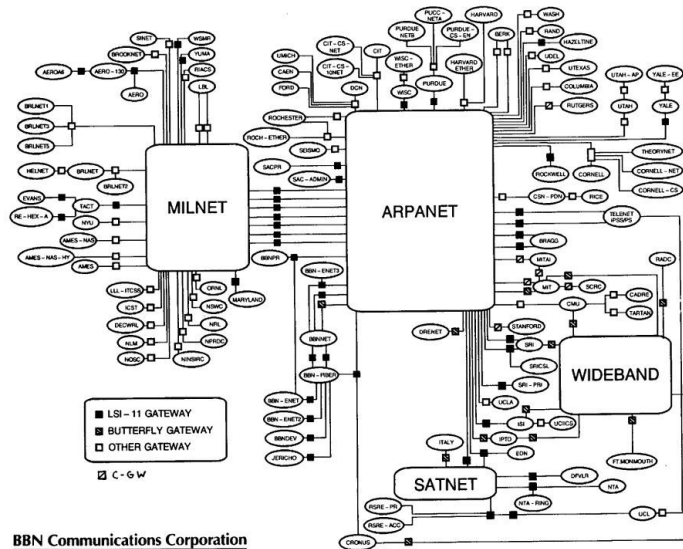
- IRC and mailing lists? Does anyone really still use those things anymore?
- What does a project maintainer even do anyway?
- How do I navigate an open source project?

Netiquette

You keep using that word, but what does it mean?

Map of the Internet c1986

From a presentation given at the second IETF meeting



netiquette.txt

Merriam-Webster:

netiquette (noun): etiquette governing communication on the Internet

IETF Request For Comments (RFC) 1855: <https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1855.txt>

Examples of Netiquette

- Mail should have a subject heading which reflects the content of the message. *RFC1855, 2.1.1 For mail*
- Don't get involved in flame wars. Neither post nor respond to incendiary material. *RFC1855, 3.1.1 General Guidelines for mailing lists and NetNews*
- When you have trouble with a site and ask for help, be sure to provide as much information as possible in order to help debug the problem. *RFC1855, 4.1.1. General guidelines*

Netiquette and Open Source

Thanks for the history lesson, but I just want to make some contributions to my favorite MODERN software project!

More History!

(Just a bit though)

- 1985 Free Software Foundation (FSF) is founded
- 1989 GNU General Public License (GPL) is written
- 1991 Linux kernel version 0.01 posted to the Finnish University and Research Network (FUNET)
- ...
- 2012 First commit to <https://github.com/ansible/ansible>
- 2020 SeaGL 2020!

Netiquette and Open Source

We're going to talk about tech like it's 1999!



CC BY-SA 2.0 rjw1

IRC

That chat thing from the 90s? Really?

IRC is Awesome!

- Open Protocol
- Distributed and Decentralized
- Client Support for every major Operating System
- Accessible protocol and clients

Caveats to IRC is Awesome

- No centralized logging / history
- What does “offline” mean anymore?
- Enormous public spaces - 920 users in #ansible!

IRC Tips

Being Awesome at Computers

- Don't "ask to ask" - just ask
- Write for an international audience
- Don't direct message people you don't know unless invited to do so
- Don't send "naked pings" to another user
- It's ok to lurk before posting to better understand how the community interacts!
- Try not to post lengthy blocks of text - break it up into concise points
- Put code samples into a paste

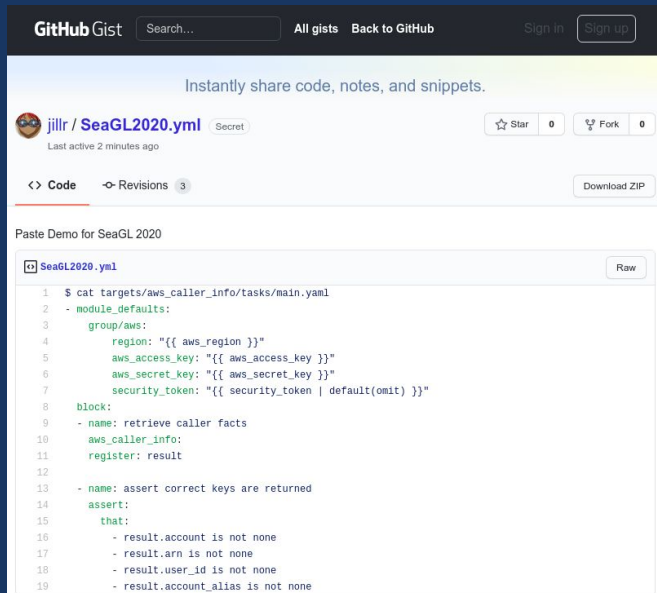
Paste Services

- <https://pastebin.centos.org>
- <http://paste.openstack.org/>
- <https://pastebin.com/>
- <https://gist.github.com/>
 - Requires a GitHub account
- IRCCloud has a built-in paste service
 - <https://blog.irccloud.com/pastebins/>

Be cautious about pasting sensitive data! This information will be publicly viewable. Never post passwords, keys, or other secrets to a paste site.

Paste Example

<https://gist.github.com/jillr/f6a99346847da9e109a9ab393ef1ec90>



The screenshot shows a GitHub Gist page. At the top, the header includes 'GitHub Gist', a search bar, and links for 'All gists', 'Back to GitHub', 'Sign in', and 'Sign up'. Below the header, a message says 'Instantly share code, notes, and snippets.' The main content area shows a gist by user 'jillr' titled 'SeaGL2020.yml', marked as 'Secret'. It has 0 stars and 0 forks. Below the title, there are tabs for 'Code' (selected) and 'Revisions' (3), and a 'Download ZIP' button. The gist content is a YAML file named 'SeaGL2020.yml' with the following code:

```
1 $ cat targets/aws_caller_info/tasks/main.yaml
2 - module_defaults:
3   group/aws:
4     region: "{{ aws_region }}"
5     aws_access_key: "{{ aws_access_key }}"
6     aws_secret_key: "{{ aws_secret_key }}"
7     security_token: "{{ security_token | default(omit) }}"
8   block:
9     - name: retrieve caller facts
10      aws_caller_info:
11        register: result
12
13     - name: assert correct keys are returned
14      assert:
15        that:
16          - result.account is not none
17          - result.arn is not none
18          - result.user_id is not none
19          - result.account_alias is not none
```


IRC Example

```
10:33 <username> Hi everyone, I want to ask a question about using Ansible's
ec2_instance module. I need to create a few instances for my company's main
web application, and I tried a few different things but I'm getting an error and
I'm not sure how to fix it. Maybe someone here is familiar with that module?
My task looks like this: name: Create instance ec2_instance:  name: MyVMs
region: "{{ region }}" state: present vpc_subnet_id: "{{
vpc_net.vpcs[0].cidr_block }}" instance_type: "m1.small" security_group:
default image_id: "{{ ami_info.images[0].image_id }}" . And the full
traceback is:Traceback (most recent call last): File "/usr/local/lib/p
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<<SNIP>>
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IRC Example

10:33 <username> I'm getting a traceback

(<https://www.irccloud.com/pastebin/EXAMPLE/>) when running this

ec2_instance task <https://gist.github.com/jillr/EXAMPLE>

10:33 <username> It seems to be an SSL connection problem, but I can successfully connect to the AWS API over HTTPS using curl from the controller

10:34 <username> I'm not really familiar with python's SSL libs so not sure where to go next.

IRC Clients and Bouncers

Client Software:

- <https://IRCCloud.com>
- IRSSI
- HexChat
- Web Portals such as <https://webchat.freenode.net/>
- More at: <https://wiki.gnome.org/Outreachy/IRC>

Bouncers and Proxies:

- ZNC
- BIP
- IRSSI Proxy

IRCCloud

IRC + Cloud = Modern Chat Experience

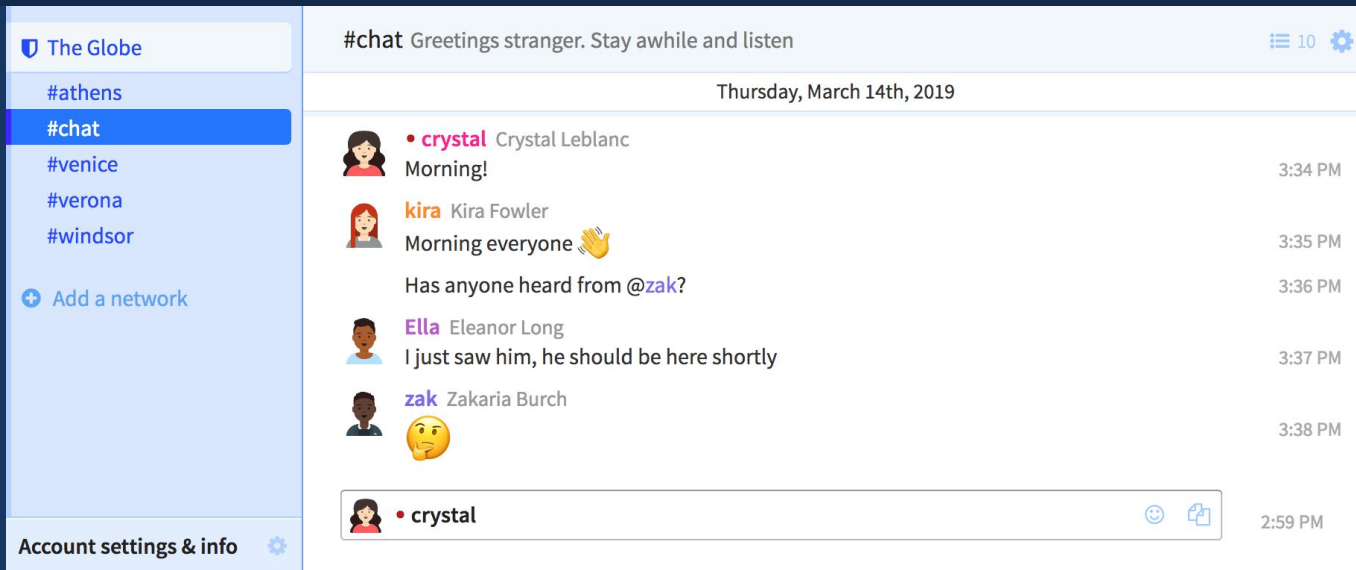
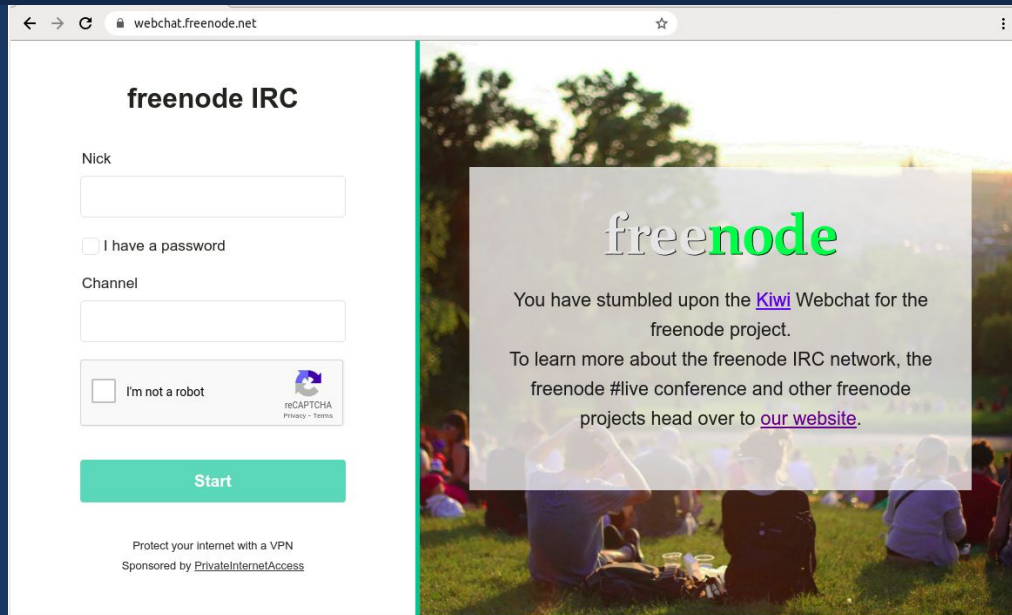


Image Credit: irccloud.com

Kiwi Web Chat

<https://webchat.freenode.net/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "webchat.freenode.net". The page is titled "freenode IRC". On the left side, there is a registration form with the following elements:

- A "Nick" label above a text input field.
- A checkbox labeled "I have a password".
- A "Channel" label above another text input field.
- A checkbox labeled "I'm not a robot" next to a reCAPTCHA logo.
- A green "Start" button.
- At the bottom, a small text block: "Protect your internet with a VPN" and "Sponsored by PrivateInternetAccess".

On the right side, there is a large background image of a group of people sitting on grass at sunset. Overlaid on this image is a semi-transparent white box containing the "freenode" logo (with "freenode" in a serif font, where "fre" is grey and "node" is green). Below the logo, the text reads:

You have stumbled upon the [Kiwi](#) Webchat for the freenode project.

To learn more about the freenode IRC network, the freenode #live conference and other freenode projects head over to [our website](#).

Mailing Lists

For asynchronous discussions and longform content
not suitable for IRC

Mailing Lists and Listservs

GNU Mailman

<https://www.gnu.org/software/mailman/>

Google Groups

<https://groups.google.com/>

Subscribing

Mailman

Subscribing to PLUG-discuss

Subscribe to PLUG-discuss by filling out the following form.

You will be sent email requesting confirmation, to prevent others from gratuitously subscribing you. This is a private list, which means that the list of members is not available to non-members.

Your email address:

Your name (optional):

You may enter a privacy password below. This provides only mild security, but should prevent others from messing with your subscription. **Do not use a valuable password** as it will occasionally be emailed back to you in cleartext.

If you choose not to enter a password, one will be automatically generated for you, and it will be sent to you once you've confirmed your subscription. You can always request a mail-back of your password when you edit your personal options.

Pick a password:

Reenter password to confirm:

Which language do you prefer to display your messages?

Would you like to receive list mail batched in a daily digest? ☒ No ☐ Yes

PLUG-discuss Subscribers

(The subscribers list is only available to the list members.)

Enter your address and password to visit the subscribers list:

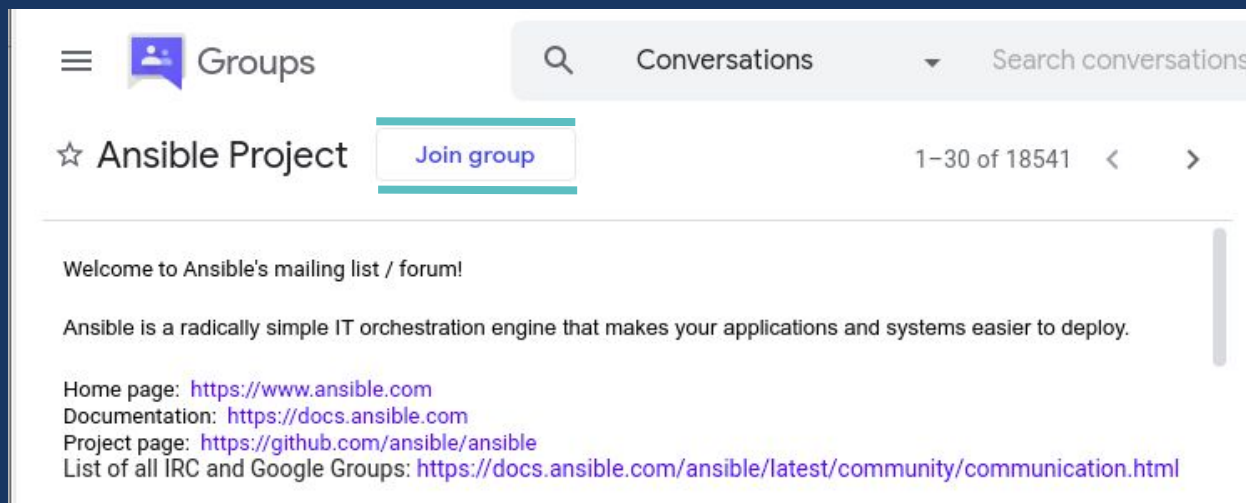
Address: Password:

To unsubscribe from PLUG-discuss, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options enter your subscription email address:

If you leave the field blank, you will be prompted for your email address

Subscribing

Google Groups



The screenshot shows the Google Groups interface for the 'Ansible Project' group. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a hamburger menu icon, the 'Groups' label, a search icon, the word 'Conversations', and a search input field. Below this, the group name 'Ansible Project' is displayed with a star icon, and a 'Join group' button is highlighted with a red border. To the right of the group name, it shows '1-30 of 18541' items with navigation arrows. The main content area contains a welcome message: 'Welcome to Ansible's mailing list / forum!'. Below this, a description states: 'Ansible is a radically simple IT orchestration engine that makes your applications and systems easier to deploy.' At the bottom, there are four links: 'Home page: <https://www.ansible.com>', 'Documentation: <https://docs.ansible.com>', 'Project page: <https://github.com/ansible/ansible>', and 'List of all IRC and Google Groups: <https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/community/communication.html>'.

Groups

Conversations Search conversations

☆ Ansible Project [Join group](#) 1-30 of 18541 < >

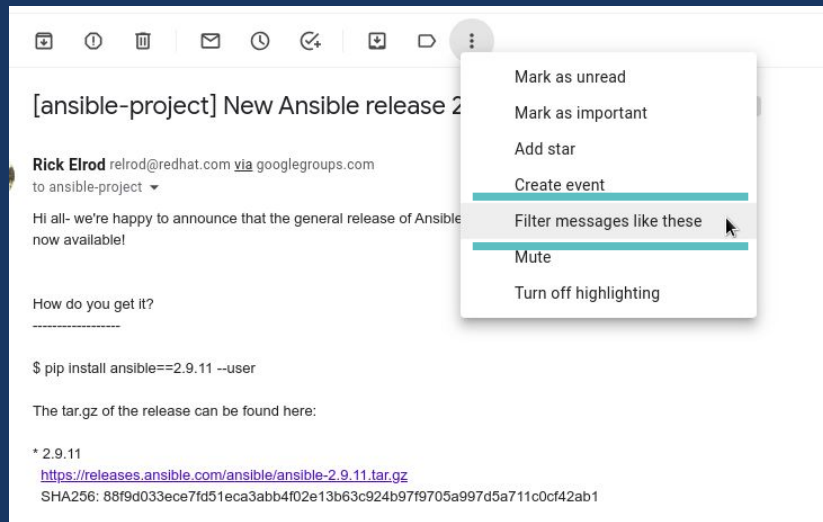
Welcome to Ansible's mailing list / forum!

Ansible is a radically simple IT orchestration engine that makes your applications and systems easier to deploy.

Home page: <https://www.ansible.com>
Documentation: <https://docs.ansible.com>
Project page: <https://github.com/ansible/ansible>
List of all IRC and Google Groups: <https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/community/communication.html>

Mail Filters

You Want Them



Email Etiquette

Getting Noticed in the Right Way



Top Posted Replies

To: ansible-devel@googlegroups.com

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Re: [ansible-devel] Ansible 2.10.0 beta 1

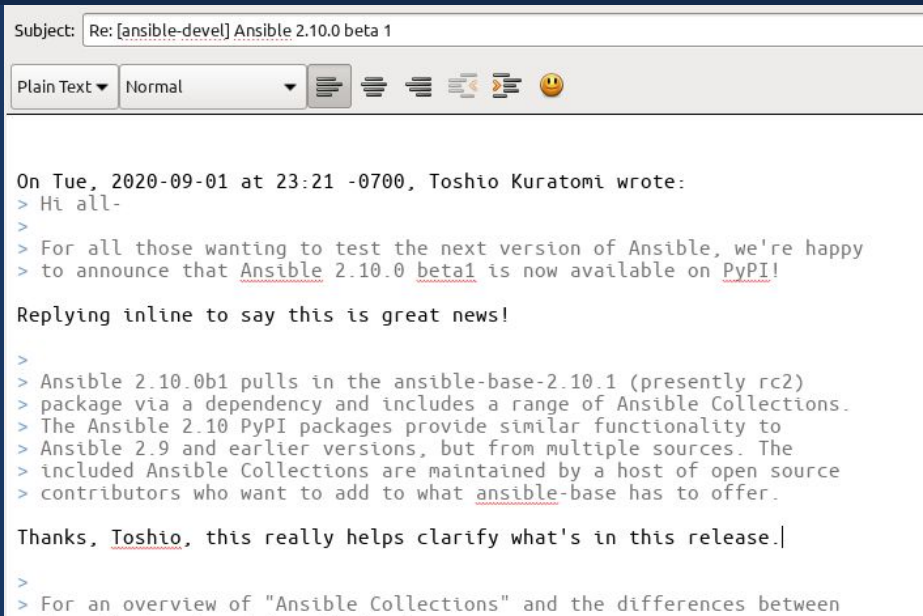
Plain Text ▾ Normal ▾

Top posting my reply to this email

On Tue, 2020-09-01 at 23:21 -0700, Toshio Kuratomi wrote:

- > Hi all-
- >
- > For all those wanting to test the next version of Ansible, we're happy
- > to announce that Ansible 2.10.0 beta1 is now available on PyPI!
- >
- > Ansible 2.10.0b1 pulls in the ansible-base-2.10.1 (presently rc2)
- > package via a dependency and includes a range of Ansible Collections.
- > The Ansible 2.10 PyPI packages provide similar functionality to
- > Ansible 2.9 and earlier versions, but from multiple sources. The
- > included Ansible Collections are maintained by a host of open source
- > contributors who want to add to what ansible-base has to offer.
- >
- > For an overview of "Ansible Collections" and the differences between
- > 'ansible-base' and 'ansible' please see
- > <https://github.com/ansible-collections/overview/blob/master/README.rst>

Inline Replies



Saying Goodbye

How to unsubscribe from a mailing list like a pro

**Please
remove
me from
your
mailing
list**

Unsubscribing

Mailman

Subject: Digest Footer

PLUG-discuss mailing list - PLUG-discuss@lists.phxlinux.org
To subscribe, unsubscribe, or to change your mail settings:
<https://lists.phxlinux.org/mailman/listinfo/plug-discuss>

End of PLUG-discuss Digest, Vol 183, Issue 7

Unsubscribing

Mailman

Subscribing to PLUG-discuss

Subscribe to PLUG-discuss by filling out the following form.

You will be sent email requesting confirmation, to prevent others from gratuitously subscribing you. This is a private list, which means that the list of members is not available to non-members.

Your email address:

Your name (optional):

You may enter a privacy password below. This provides only mild security, but should prevent others from messing with your subscription. **Do not use a valuable password** as it will occasionally be emailed back to you in cleartext.

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(The subscribers list is only available to the list members.)

Enter your address and password to visit the subscribers list:

Address: Password:

To unsubscribe from PLUG-discuss, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options enter your subscription email address:

If you leave the field blank, you will be prompted for your email address

Unsubscribing

Mailman

Unsubscribe

By clicking on the *Unsubscribe* button, a confirmation message will be emailed to you. This message will have a link that you should click on to complete the removal process (you can also confirm by email; see the instructions in the confirmation message).

Unsubscribe

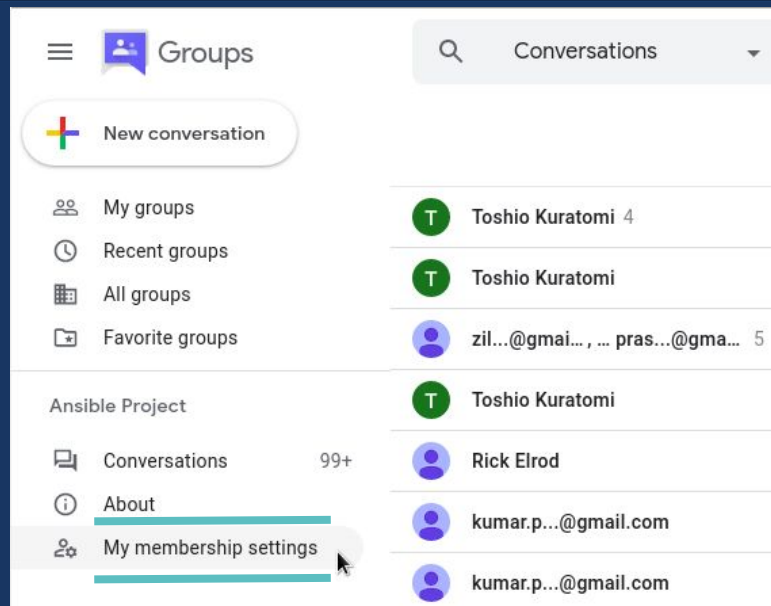
Password reminder

By clicking on the *Remind* button, your password will be emailed to you.

Remind

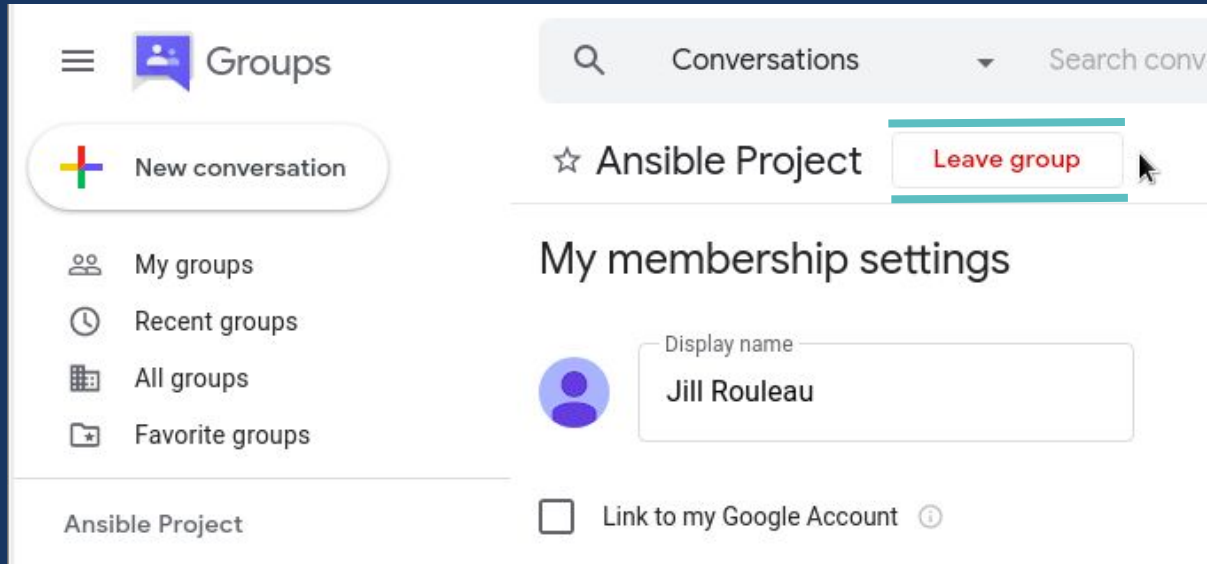
Unsubscribing

Google Groups



Unsubscribing

Google Groups



Open Source People

Who are all these people and what does a maintainer actually DO anyway?

Common Roles in Open Source Communities

Subject to a high degree of variability!

- Contributors
- Committers
- Maintainers / Cores
- Leads
- Committees

Common Roles in Open Source Communities

Contributor:

- Anyone in the community who participates in any way with the project

OR

- Anyone who has had a change accepted to the project

Common Roles in Open Source Communities

Committer:

- Anyone in the community who have permissions to Commit changes to one or more source code repositories

Common Roles in Open Source Communities

Maintainer or Core:

- A committer with responsibility for the long term maintenance, packaging, distribution, and support of the software

Common Roles in Open Source Communities

Types of Leads:

- Project Leads, Project Technical Leads (PTLs), Benevolent Dictators For Life (BDFLs)

Responsibilities:

- Technical and organizational decision-making, project management, project evangelism, mentoring, selection and promotion of committers, and more.
- May be project founders, elected members of the community, or employed by a foundation or corporate project sponsor

Common Roles in Open Source Communities

Technical Councils / Steering Committees:

- Guidance, organization, governance, and direction of large projects or groups of projects
- Voted in on some regular basis from and by active contributing members of the community

AND / OR

- Employed by a foundation or corporate project sponsor

That's so many people!

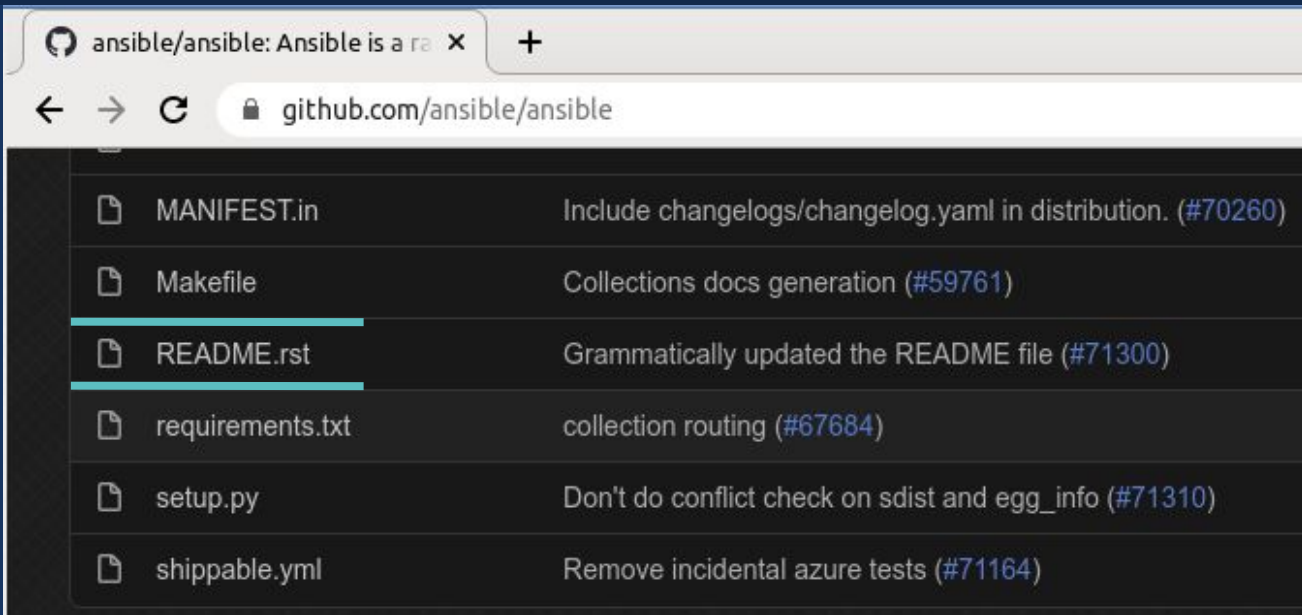
Why does it still take so long to get my PR looked at?



Getting Started

I'm ready, let's do this!

READMEs



| | |
|-------------------|---|
| MANIFEST.in | Include changelogs/changelog.yaml in distribution. (#70260) |
| Makefile | Collections docs generation (#59761) |
| <u>README.rst</u> | Grammatically updated the README file (#71300) |
| requirements.txt | collection routing (#67684) |
| setup.py | Don't do conflict check on sdist and egg_info (#71310) |
| shippable.yml | Remove incidental azure tests (#71164) |

Ansible Community Guide

<https://docs.ansible.com/ansible/latest/community/>

- Links to Email Lists and IRC Channels
- Links to Meetups
- How to report a bug or request a feature
- Information on Working Groups
- Lots More!

Codes of Conduct

https://seagl.org/code_of_conduct.html

The SeaGL Code of Conduct, or CoC, starts:

SeaGL is dedicated to providing a harassment-free conference experience for everyone; regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, nationality, race, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of conference staff, volunteers, presenters, attendees, and participants in any form. Conference participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference, without a refund, at the discretion of the conference organizers.

Buy This Book!

Forge Your Future With Open Source - VM (Vicky) Brasseur

<https://fossforge.com/>



Thank you

Questions?

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jillr@redhat.com

@jillrouleau

